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(54) **SYSTEMS AND METHODS TO PROVIDE VENDOR MANAGED INVENTORY WITH ACTIVE TRACKING**

(57) Disclosed is a system and method to track the consumption and use period of various consumable and/or durable welding-type products via tracking the consumption and/or use of various other consumable

and/or durable welding-type products. The system and method may provide alerts when the use period of a consumable and/or durable welding-type product satisfies a threshold and therefore should be replaced.

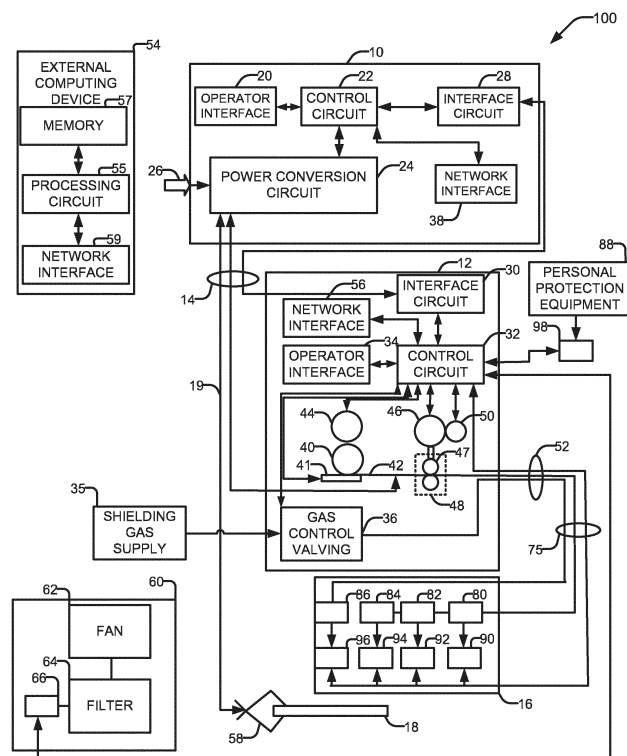


FIG.1a



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 20 15 4949

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	US 2015/158109 A1 (CHANTRY BRUCE [US]) 11 June 2015 (2015-06-11)	1,4-17	INV. B23K9/32
Y	* paragraph [0034] - paragraph [0035];	2,3	
A	figures *	18-20	
Y	US 2018/232545 A1 (HOFFA MICHAEL [US] ET AL) 16 August 2018 (2018-08-16) * claim 9 *	2,3	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			B23K
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 31 August 2020	Examiner Caubet, J
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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31-08-2020

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82